

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An ophthalmic implant for treating or alleviating the symptoms of glaucoma, the implant having:

- (a) a plate shaped to fit the surface of an eye when implanted,
- (b) an inner ridge located on the upper surface of the plate, where a region encompassed by the inner ridge defines a primary drainage region into which fluid from the anterior chamber or posterior chamber of the eye can be drained when in use,
- (c) ~~optionally an outer ridge~~ a boundary structure located on the upper surface of the plate outward of the inner ridge, provided that the height of the inner ridge relative to the surface of the plate is greater than the height of the ~~outer ridge~~ boundary structure relative to the surface of the plate,
- (d) a secondary drainage region outside the inner ridge into which fluid from the primary drainage region can be received when in use, where the secondary drainage region is defined by the inner ridge and ~~either the boundary structure edge of the plate or the outer ridge~~, and
- (e) a hole in the inner ridge having a size enabling a drainage tube for draining the fluid from the anterior chamber or posterior chamber of the eye to the primary drainage region to be connected to the hole so that fluid can be transferred through the tube and into the primary drainage region.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The ophthalmic implant of claim 1 ~~which has~~ wherein the boundary structure comprises an outer ridge.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 2 where the outer ridge is located at or proximal to the edge of the plate.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ophthalmic implant of claim 1 ~~which has no outer ridge~~ wherein the boundary structure has a height of zero and corresponds to the edge of the plate.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 1 including the drainage tube.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 1 where the plate has at least two suture holes, each suture hole located near the edge of the plate to allow the implant to be sutured to the surface of the eyeball.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 6 where the plate has two suture holes.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 6 where the plate has four suture holes.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 1 where the surface area of the primary drainage region is up to about one quarter of the surface area of the plate.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 1 where the inner ridge has dimensions suitable to allow overlying Tenon's tissue to exert tension on the inner ridge so that fluid can escape from the drainage region onto the remainder of the surface of the plate only when the fluid pressure reaches a certain level.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 10 where the fluid pressure is greater than about 12 to 15 mmHg.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 1 where the dimensions of the plate enable the plate to be inserted at least partly beneath adjacent rectus muscle tendons close to their insertions on the eye.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 1 where the implant is made from polypropylene.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 1 where the implant has more than one inner ridge.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The ophthalmic implant of claim 1 where the implant is linked to one or more additional implants by one or more interconnecting tubes to allow transfer of fluid from one implant to another.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method of treating or alleviating the symptoms of glaucoma using an implant of claim 1 by:

- (a) surgically inserting the implant between the sclera and Tenon's tissue of the eye, and

- (b) inserting the drainage tube through the surface of the eye and into either the anterior chamber or posterior chamber of the eye to allow fluid to drain from the anterior chamber into the drainage region of the implant.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 16 further including the step of temporarily occluding the drainage tube using an absorbable ligature to delay drainage of fluid.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of claim 16 where the implant is held in place by one or more sutures.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 18 where the implant is held in place by two sutures.